

Technology to Meet Your Needs

Iowa School Alerts — solving problems for schools, media and parents

Iowa School Alerts is a computer program that was developed by the State of Iowa to help facilitate communications when schools must close, dismiss early, or start late due to weather or other circumstances. After enrolling your school, you send just one message that reaches all of the media outlets, parents, daycare providers and others who have signed up to receive notices about your school.

This service is provided at no charge to all schools, citizens and media outlets as part of the IOWAccess initiative to bring more e-government services to Iowa citizens.

FREE

to

**Contact everyone
with one message**

TV
Radio
Websites
Parents/Guardians
Daycare Providers

How Does It Work?

School superintendents (or their designee) log in to the secure Iowa School Alerts website and create a notification that is transmitted instantly to everyone who signed up to receive notices for that school. Notices can be sent to e-mail addresses or e-mail-equipped portable devices, such as PDAs or cell phones. You can even upload an RSS feed to scroll on your website that is continually updated with the latest information. Iowa School Alerts allows recipients to determine which school districts and/or school buildings they receive notices for, and at what e-mail address(es).

**Streamlined
Communications**

How Do I Enroll My School?

To get your school district on board with *Iowa School Alerts*, contact the program administrator with the following information:

1. Main contact name, e-mail and phone number
2. Name of your school district
3. A list of all the school buildings in your district

**Easy to
Use**

E-mail is generally the best method, but a postal address and phone number are also provided below:

Iowa School Alerts Program Administrator:
Darrell Fremont
Phone: 515-242-6009
E-mail: Darrell.Fremont@iowa.gov

DAS — Information Technology Enterprise
Hoover State Office Building
1305 East Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

How Do I Send Notices?

Once your school district's account is set up, any computer with an Internet connection can be used to send notices.

- Go to <https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov/> and log into your account (you will be provided with a user name and password when your account is created; passwords can be changed at any time)
- Select "Announce Notification"
- Type in the message you wish to send. (Note: notifications should be concise for those receiving messages on their cell phones)
- Click "Make Notification"
- Your message will be instantly transmitted to everyone who has signed up to receive notices about your school district or the particular school building(s) affected.

Reliable

Secure

The Iowa School Alerts website is secure, and your account is password-protected.

You can encourage parents in your district and media contacts to sign up for Iowa School Alerts by letting them know you are a participant. When you enroll in Iowa School Alerts, we will provide you with informational materials to distribute to parents.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How much does this service cost?

A: It's free! There is no charge to anyone — including schools, the media, or parents — to use this service. Funding is provided by the IOWAccess Advisory Council.

Q: How do parents receive notices?

A: It's easy for parents, guardians, daycare providers and other interested persons to sign up to receive notices by simply going to the Iowa School Alerts website (<https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov/>) and creating an account. They can receive notices via e-mail, cell phones or e-mail-capable PDAs, and can sign up as many addresses as they like! When your school enrolls, we will provide you with instructions and information to give to parents.

Q: Will the media outlets in our area be notified?

A: We are contacting media outlets across the state and encouraging them to sign up to receive notices for their area. Not only does this service make it easier for schools to get the word out, but it's easier for media outlets to receive school cancellation notices from one source. You can let your local newspapers, TV and radio stations know that your school is part of the Iowa School Alerts system.



*Iowa School Alerts is administered by the Iowa
Department of Administrative Services*

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IOWAccess Advisory Council
<http://iowaccess.iowa.gov/>

What do you have to
do when classes
must be
cancelled?

Notify everyone
on your list with

one message

when school needs to be
cancelled, dismissed early,
or started late.



How?

Sign up for Iowa School Alerts
a FREE service brought to you
by the State of Iowa.